

What Are They Up To Now? Updates on Policy from the AZ Legislature



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What Are We Doing?

- Review selected changes to Arizona education law affecting schools*
- Review Legislative Activity Regarding Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards
- Brief Explanation of ESEA Flexibility (Waiver Process)
- Questions

*A full list of this year's Legislative changes is available at <http://www.azed.gov/policy>

A wide-angle photograph of the Grand Canyon at dusk or dawn. The layered rock formations are illuminated by warm, low-angle light, creating a mix of orange, red, and blue tones. The sky is a clear, pale blue. In the bottom left corner, a person's hand is visible, resting on a rock ledge.

2014 Session of the Arizona Legislature

SELECT STATUTORY CHANGES

FY2015 Budget Bills

- \$74.6M inflation factor (1.4%)
- \$24.5M district sponsored charter schools
- \$20M Student Success Funding
- \$12M AELAS Data System
- \$1M Information Technology Certifications
- \$847K Technology Based Language Pilot

HB2703, HB2711, SB1188 (Ch. 18, 16, 17)

District Sponsored Charter Schools

- Funded at \$24.5M for FY2015 (formula is \$33M).
- Beginning in FY2016, all DSCS not in operation before July 1, 2013 must convert back to traditional district schools.
- DSCS operating before July 1, 2013 may continue, but are subject to an enrollment growth cap of 20% above FY2013 ADM.

Student Success Funding

- \$20M distributed based on both proficiency levels and student growth, as measured by state assessment.
- Proficiency levels correspond to falls far below, approaches, meets, or exceeds proficiency.
- Growth corresponds roughly to below average SGP, above average SGP, and top 17% SGP.
- Per-student amounts range from \$61.25 to \$6.00

School Finance

- Largely technical changes, except:
- Prohibits public schools from charging fees that have the effect of preventing students from applying to, enrolling in, or remaining enrolled in a school.
- Prohibition on the counting of route miles by more than one school district for the same student.
- Provision allowing supplemental state aid to Yarnell School District due to fire damage (and any future district with similar issues)

SB1350 (Ch. 226)

School Finance (Contd.)

- Voters of a school district meeting certain criteria may petition the county school superintendent to hold an election to transform the district to a transporting district. (HB2438, Ch. 61)
- Language advocating for or against an override or bond measure is strictly confined to the “arguments” section of the election pamphlet. (SB1182, Ch. 111)

Empowerment Scholarship Accounts

- 100-day previous year enrollment requirement is waived for students in military families. (HB2150, Ch. 200)
- Siblings of students on an ESA are eligible beginning in school year 15-16.
- Students who qualify for publicly funded preschool are eligible for direct enrollment beginning in school year 15-16.

(HB2139, Ch. 199)

Instruction

- If test data is not available for a third grade student before the beginning of the fourth grade, that student may not be retained in third grade. (HB2637, Ch. 214)
- A computer science course deemed “sufficiently rigorous” by a local board may count for the 4th required math credit for HS graduation. (HB2265, Ch. 137)
- A critical languages pilot program was established, but awaits future funding. If funded, it will provide a pilot for seven schools, in Chinese, Spanish, and additional languages including Native American languages. (SB1242, Ch. 114)

Accountability/Certification

- Scores on AIMS Science will be included in school achievement profiles for A-F letter grades (State Board to determine implementation). (SB1288, Ch. 116)
- The State Board of Education may include survey data in A-F letter grades. (HB2637, Ch. 214)
- The State Board of Education must adopt rules to allow suicide prevention training to be counted as continuing education clock hours toward certificate renewal. (HB 2605, Ch. 272)

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY STANDARDS

Anti-Standards Legislation

- HB2316 schools; local control; student privacy (Veto)
- SB1095 withdrawal from PARCC (held)
- SB1310 schools; common core; prohibition (Failed)
- SB1395 schools; competency requirements; assessments; optional (Failed)
- SB1388 schools; academic standards; tests (Held)



Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

FLEXIBILITY REQUEST

What is ESEA Flexibility?

- In exchange for meeting certain criteria, the U.S. Department of Education grants exemptions from some of the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
 - 100% proficiency requirement
 - The placement of schools in federal school improvement
 - Requirement for Title I dollars to be used for supplemental instruction

What Do We Have To Do?

- College and Career Ready Standards (AZ already met as of 2010)
- Teacher evaluation system based on student growth
- A “significant factor” of teacher evaluation tied directly to student growth in tested grades/subjects (Group A)
- HS graduation rate to comprise 15% of A-F letter grade profiles for high schools.

So What?

- ADE is charged with implementing the requirements of flexibility.
- Much of the “churn” that you are experiencing in evaluation systems is a result of the requirements of flexibility, not decisions that the state is making.
- ADE is constantly pleading the case of educators on the ground to USDOE.

Questions?

I will do my best to answer



Thank You



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